

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel at which a pair of opening portions are symmetrically formed between an inner periphery of a rim of the steering wheel and an outer periphery of a pad cover of the steering wheel, at each of the opening portions a switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches is disposed,

wherein an arrangement and a shape of the plurality of switches constituting the each switch assembly are determined so as to be symmetrical with respect to a radially-oriented base line bisecting each of the opening portions, and

wherein each of said switch assemblies comprises an elongated body portion including an elongated mounting member offset from and extending away from said body portion in a radial direction toward said pad cover in a position substantially parallel with said elongated body portion, and having end portions adapted to be attached to spokes of said steering wheel ~~having a top side whose end portions are covered by switch buttons that extend to an inner periphery of said opening portions.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the switch assembly is fixed to a component that is one of pad cover side constituting parts.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel at which opening portions are positioned between an inner periphery of a rim of the steering wheel and an outer periphery of a pad cover of the steering wheel, at each of which opening portions a switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches is disposed,

wherein arrangement of the plurality of switches is the same at each switch assembly, and

a switch disposed at corresponding portions of each switch assembly has the same shape at each switch assembly, and

~~wherein each of said switch assemblies comprise a body portion having a top side whose end portions are covered by switch buttons that extend to an inner periphery of said opening portions.~~

wherein each of said switch assemblies comprises an elongated body portion including an elongated mounting member offset from and extending away from said body portion in a radial direction toward said pad cover in a position substantially parallel with said elongated body portion, and having end portions adapted to be attached to spokes of said steering wheel.

6. (Currently Amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 5 comprising;

a first opening portion and a second opening portion formed between the inner periphery of the rim and the outer periphery of the pad cover;

a first switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches disposed in the first opening portion; and

a second switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches disposed in the second opening portion,

wherein an arrangement of the plurality of switches of the first switch assembly is the same as an arrangement of the plurality of switches of the second switch assembly, and

each switch of the plurality of switches of the first switch assembly has a same shape with a shape of a switch of the plurality of switches of the second switch assembly which switch corresponds to the each switch of the plurality of switches of the first switch assembly, and

~~wherein each of said switch assemblies comprise a body portion having a top side whose end portions are covered by switch buttons that extend to an inner periphery of said opening portions.~~

wherein each of said switch assemblies comprises an elongated body portion including an elongated mounting member offset from and extending away from said body portion in a radial direction toward said pad cover in a position substantially parallel with said elongated body portion, and having end portions adapted to be attached to spokes of said steering wheel.

7. (Previously presented) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein said body portion of each of said switch assemblies has a bottom end that is laterally displaced away from said top side toward said pad cover.

8. (Cancelled)